



MASTER GARDENER APPLICATION



I wish to become a participant in the RCE Master Gardener training program and would like to be accepted for the next class. I understand that upon successful completion of the training, I must perform the required hours of volunteer service within the necessary time frame to attain the title of Certified Master Gardener.

The cost for the 2011 Cape May County Master Gardener Course is \$325.00, which includes all course materials including the University of Maryland Master Gardener Handbook. Classes begin January 10 2011 and are held Mondays from 9am-12am. The course runs through July 18, 2011.

Signature: _____ Date of Application: _____

(Please print)

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____ COUNTY: _____

PHONE (H): _____ (W): _____

FAX: _____ E – MAIL: _____

Please complete the following:

1. Briefly describe your interest, experience and/or training in gardening / horticulture

2. Please describe your level of expertise in gardening & horticulture:

____ Beginner ____ Intermediate ____ Advanced ____ Expert

3. Why do you wish to become a RCE Master Gardener volunteer?

4. Do you belong to a garden club or environmental group? If so, which one (s)? _____

5. Please list past volunteer experiences, community, or civic activities and positions held.

6. Please list your occupation and any skills in non-horticultural areas (writing, computers, graphics, art or photography, etc.) that might be relevant to your volunteer activities:

7. Do you anticipate any circumstances that would keep you from attending class, fulfilling the minimum volunteer commitments or participating in other volunteer activities? Yes__ No__
If so, please describe here:

8. Please note that three (3) references will be requested at the application interview. Not all applicants will be accepted into the program. Please read all enclosed material before applying.

Please return this application to RCE of Cape May County, 4 Moore Road, CMCH, NJ 08210.



Cape May County Master Gardener Program

So you want to be a volunteer?

Volunteer participation is one of the most important aspects of Rutgers Cooperative Extension and Master Gardeners. This is in keeping with Extension's philosophy that community participation in planning and implementation ensures program success.

Do you have an interest in gardening and a desire to volunteer in your community? If so, then volunteering as a Master Gardener is an excellent way to give back to your community by sharing research-based home horticultural information, developing and enhancing community horticulture and environmental programs, and developing your own leadership potential.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a Master Gardener?

New Jersey Master Gardeners are certified and trained volunteers who assist Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station (NJAES) Cooperative Extension in its mission to deliver horticulture programs and information to the general public. They are trained in gardening topics ranging from basic botany and plant pathology to integrated pest management and irrigation techniques. In exchange for the training, Master Gardeners agree to volunteer a certain number of hours by working in their community in programs sponsored by Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station (NJAES) Cooperative Extension. Successful graduates of the program become Certified Master Gardeners after they complete their volunteer service. Additional training and volunteer time are required annually to renew certification. Only persons who have successfully completed these requirements can call themselves Master Gardeners. Please note that "a Master Gardener should not display credentials or give the appearance of being a Master Gardener at a place of business for the sole purpose of increasing sales or perceived endorsement.

What is Cooperative Extension?

Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station (NJAES) Cooperative Extension helps the diverse population of New Jersey adapt to a rapidly changing society and improve their lives and communities through an educational process that uses science based knowledge. Through science-based educational programs, Rutgers Cooperative Extension truly enhances the quality of life for residents of New Jersey and brings the wealth of knowledge of the state university to local communities.

Who can become a Master Gardener?

Individuals with an interest in both gardening and volunteer service are eligible for the program. No previous experience is necessary.

How do I become a Master Gardener?

All prospective program participants must first complete and submit an application to the Cape May County Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension office. To obtain Certified Master Gardener status, volunteers must complete the RCE Master Gardener Core Curriculum training that consists of a minimum of 60 hours of classroom and/or field instruction. Master Gardener Classes are not offered every year and space is limited. All applicants are not accepted to program. Please visit <http://njaes.rutgers.edu/mastergardeners> for more information or call the Cape May County Rutgers Cooperative Extension Office at (609) 465-5115 to find out about future training classes and availability.

I took the class, now what do I do?

Taking the course is only the first step in becoming a Master Gardener. Once you have the knowledge you then commit to sharing that knowledge with the public by volunteering. New graduates are required to volunteer 60 hours of service to their community. Only pre-approved volunteer projects count towards certification. You will have 18 months to complete these 60 hours, 10 of which are mandatory helpline hours. After your initial certification, you will then be granted the title of Master Gardener. To maintain your Master Gardener status, 25 hours of volunteer time is required every year as well as 10 hours of continuing education. Without these hours, you lose Master Gardener certification.

What type of volunteer activities exist?

The opportunities for volunteer services are limitless:

- diagnose plant, insect and disease problems
- operate a [garden help-line](#) in your local county extension office
- design a demonstration or community garden
- lecture on various gardening topics
- bring the joys of gardening to others
- beautify your town
- work on a farm that helps bring fresh produce to the homeless and hungry



RCE MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER AGREEMENT

Name (please print) _____

Position: Master Gardener Volunteer: ____ **Intern** **x** **Certified** ____ **Educator** ____



We appreciate your commitment to the RCE Master Gardener program. Your satisfaction and progress in this volunteer position is important to us. Please read the following expectations and indicate your willingness to cooperate by signing the end of this form. This form must be signed and filed with the county Rutgers Cooperative Extension office, and may need updating as volunteer activity changes. Volunteers not adhering to all items in this agreement may forfeit their certification as a Master Gardener Volunteer.

The RCE Master Gardener Program agrees to provide:

- Philosophy and direction for the Master Gardener volunteer
- Information on state and federal policies that govern RCE and volunteers
- Opportunities for volunteers from all backgrounds
- Assistance, support, encouragement, and motivation
- Educational materials and ongoing training opportunities
- Information regarding coming events and programs
- Recognition for time and effort devoted to volunteer efforts
- Support for all Master Gardener volunteers using due diligence when dealing with the general public's inquiries.

As a RCE Master Gardener, I agree to:

- Maintain my certification by following and fulfilling all annual requirements
- Support and promote RCE and RCE Master Gardener Program
- Carry out all duties in a responsible and timely manner
- Work cooperatively with RCE faculty, staff, and other volunteers
- Provide quality service to the public
- Conduct myself in a courteous and respectful manner
- Serve as a positive RCE role model
- Welcome volunteers from all backgrounds

I understand that this agreement will be in effect until it is either rescinded by RCE or I withdraw from active volunteerism within the RCE Master Gardener program of my county, or my RCE Master Gardener Certification lapses.

County Agent

Date

RCE Master Gardener

Date

Media Release:

I also acknowledge that the above-named organization has my permission to distribute my quotes, photograph and/or videotape clip as part of its educational and promotional programming efforts. I further acknowledge that my authorization and permission is voluntary and I will not be paid any royalties, fees, or other form of remuneration.

RCE Master Gardener: _____ Date: _____